## **Senate Computing and Information Technology Committee**

September 30, 2020

The SCITC discussed the matter of furthering to Race, Equity, and Justice. The general consensus was that the SCITC can/should always be purposely mindful of these points when we discuss any topics. Ask questions like: Do we have equitable access to this technology? How can this be used to further equity, justice? Some actions already taken by administrative units include:

* Pitt IT has been focused on how to bridge digital divide types of issues. When we made the pivot to remote teaching and work, we supplied hundreds of devices to members of the Pitt community who were underserved, and it became evident that there were a ton of broader issues.
* We opened the help desk to underserved people, helped people in Homewood with their licensing, we have an initiative with MetaMesh to provide internet connectivity to underserved areas in the Pittsburgh area, we provide opportunities for minority students to gain experience through working for Pitt IT, etc.
* Many of these people are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to their work, education, access to news, etc. These are just a few of the ways that we can support people in need and help our community.  
  Research Computing recognized that since we’ve gotten good at giving remote workshops, we opened our workshops to historically black colleges and universities. Our first effort will be with Howard University and they’ll try it out this fall to see if it will work well for other places.
* Another idea is to open internships to undergraduates-this internship will be for students interested in the computing world who are underserved.

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SCITC